Rome april 25. 1865

My dear Tom

Maria wrote me a most charming letter in which the only painful thing was that you were again suffering from your old illness which grieves me much and I often think of you so now as 'tis the only thing I can do I write you a pleasant letter for you'll be glad that I have nothing painful to tell & this another reason why I write

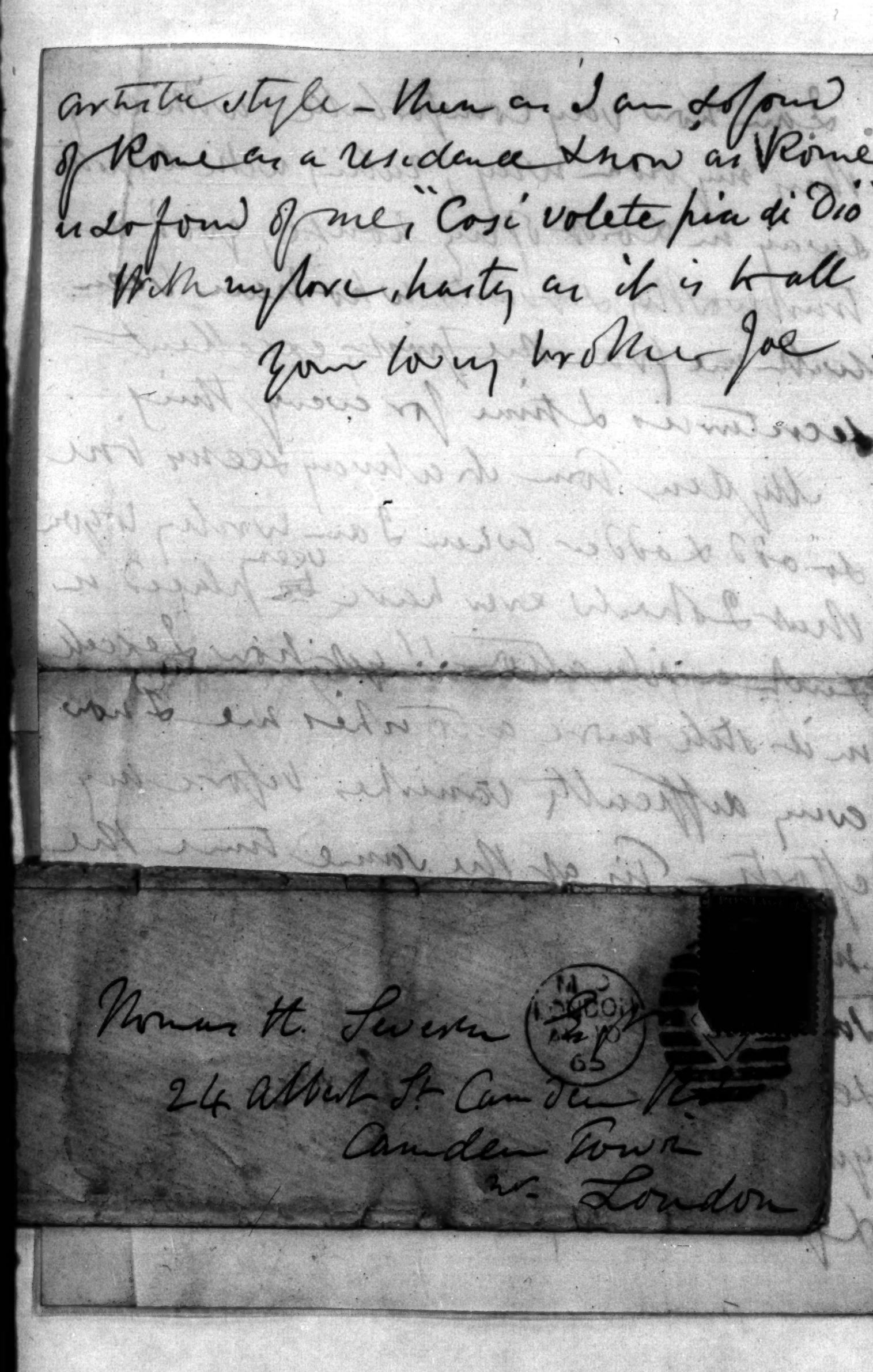
The winter with us as with you has been dreary, but now we have the most charming lovely spring, nature being on a state of holiday, so that we all feel young again for I assure you the Tiber is high all for very dear, what with the bad weather & the muddy baths

they were looking very so so, but now the pic
nicking is going on, out to Tivoli. Frascati
Albano & soon & this has given universal
joy & everyone says there is nothing like
Rome — I have been concerned in most
difficult matters & come out with my
usual good fortune — Mr Spier a young
Scotsman rode a Steeple Chase & put
on accidently the prohibited colours of
Italy, that is he rode a Dorca horse &
had to wear a green jacket & red waistcoat
but a gentleman riding with jockeys
always wears a white belt; & this made
the wicked colours — the Queen of Naples
gave him a bouquet on his winning the
race & all the Romans were in ecstacies
delight as well as the nobility — the consequence
was that the Pope ordered his immediate
expulsion from Rome, this I good natured
visitor & succeeded in persuading the
Governor of Rome to grant me a week's

grace for him which he did on his own responsibility but at the end of the week the angry Pope against the expulsion of Lord Vaux a catholic peer would have a meeting at my consulate to protest against the Popes order— This I also counteracted & after returning Mr Spiers a fortnight & not letting him know that "Damocles sword" was suspended over his head all the time, he went away of his own accord, but the Governor begged & prayed of me not let him off as he himself would be compromised—

Mr Odo Russell (L^d Russell nephew) was so pleased at the skill I had evinced in preventing a serious row that he offered to write to his Uncle about me At last the Pope is really treating with the King of Italy & his minister has come from Turin — We all went the other day to the Royal Villa Tusculana where I am just going to Summer, but I now hear that the Brigands are about to

artistic style – When am I to find
of Rome as a resident know as Rome
is to find of me, "Così volete pia di Dio"
With my love, charity as it is to all
Your loving brother Joe



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